



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT OFFICE



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STEVEN E. CHESTER  
DIRECTOR

June 24, 2008

Mr. Kevin Lettinga, Manager  
Walnutdale Farms, LLC  
4343 14th Street  
Wayland, Michigan 49348

**VIOLATION NOTICE VN-003459**

Dear Mr. Lettinga:

SUBJECT: Compliance Evaluation  
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. MIG010063  
Designated Name: Walnutdale Farms Dorr Twp-CAFO – Allegan County

On January 1, 2008, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Water Bureau (WB) staff conducted an inspection of the facility located at 4309 14th Street, Wayland, Michigan, to determine compliance with General Permit No. MIG019000. It was evident during the inspection that Walnutdale Farms, LLC is making significant efforts to prevent environmental issues through facility upgrades and day-to-day maintenance efforts.

Despite these efforts, as detailed in the enclosed inspection report, we observed three permit standard violations which must be addressed:

1. There was a lack of predominance of vegetation in areas of the pasture north of the production area.
2. Gas bubble "hippos" had formed under the liner of the waste storage structure at the north end of the production area.
3. Samples of storm water runoff from the haylage pad indicated high nutrient loads despite what appeared to be a significant level of effort toward maintaining the "ag-bag" diversion system. Under the observed management system, all of this runoff was required to have been collected and stored.

In response to these concerns, please take the following actions:

1. **By July 15, 2008**, submit a corrective action plan to me, at this office, which outlines your plans to address items two through four below. At a minimum, the work plan should include:
  - a. Basic plans and/or written descriptions of actions that have been or will be taken to address these items.
  - b. A date of completion for each item on or before the proposed dates below. If you wish to exceed these time frames, please provide written justification as to why.
2. **By August 1, 2008**, as required by Section I.A.4.a.1.a, please re-establish vegetation in degraded areas of the pasture north of the production area or remove all cattle from the confinement area.

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3. **By October 1, 2008**, as required by Section I.A.4.a.4.e, please install an effective system of relieving gas pressure underneath the existing storage structure such that the liner no longer forms gas pressure bubbles known as "hippos".
4. **By December 1, 2008**, as required by Section I.A.4.a.1.a, implement management and/or construction practices at the haylage pad that either collects contaminated storm water or effectively diverts clean storm water from contact with feed materials.

If you have any questions regarding our findings, please contact me at the number listed below.

Sincerely,



Jerrod Sanders, Environmental Quality Analyst  
Kalamazoo District Office  
Field Operations Division  
Water Bureau  
269-567-3579  
269-567-9440 (fax)  
SandersJ3@michigan.gov

js/dmm

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Carrie Monosmith, DEQ  
Mr. Scott Miller, DEQ